Commerce, *www.commerce.nic.in* under the heading "Information Dissemination-Export Import Data Bank".

(c) to (e) There is no existing border trade arrangement between India and Bangladesh. However, the issue of setting up of Border Haats along the India-Bangladesh border is among the issues considered during the ongoing negotiations with Bangladesh.

Impact of FDI on agriculture and plantation

2727. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to allow FDI upto 100 per cent in agriculture/plantation activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken into consideration the fact that if FDI is permitted, the prices of agricultural products would not be controlable; and

(d) the other consequence which the people of India would have to face due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The present policy for FDI in Agriculture and Plantation sector is as under.

i. FDI up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route only in the under-mentioned activities *viz.* Floriculture, Horticulture, Development of Seeds, Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture, Aqua-culture and Cultivation of Vegetables & Mushrooms, under controlled conditions and services related to agro and allied sectors.

ii. FDI upto 100% with prior Government approval is permitted in Tea plantation subject to the conditions of divestment of 26% equity of the company in favour of an Indian partner/Indian public within a period of five years; and prior approval of the State Government concerned in case of any future land use change.

iii. Besides the above two, FDI is not allowed in any other agricultural sector/activity.

(c) and (d) While allowing FDI in activities mentioned in (a) & (b) above, since 2003[for (a) &(b) i. above] and 2002 [for (a) &(b) ii. above], it was felt that this would not lead to increase of agricultural prices.

Doubling the trade between India and Thailand

2728. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Thailand are exploring opportunities to double the annual trade to 4 billion dollar in the next couple of years, and expand the list of items that could be traded, from 82 to about 5,000;

(b) whether a working group from Thailand had discussions with the concerned officials here to double the trade volume from two billion dollar to four billion dollar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A Framework Agreement for establishing Free Trade Area (FTA) between India and Thailand was signed by the Commerce Ministers of India and Thailand on 9th October 2003. 82 common items of export interest to both the sides have been agreed for elimination of tariff on a fast track basis *w.e.f.* 1.9.2004. During the visit of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand in June 2005, the two Prime Ministers agreed to raise the level of the bilateral trade between India and Thailand to US $ 4 billion by 2007. During the visit of Thai Foreign Minister on August 7-8,2006, the Thai Foreign Minister reiterated this commitment and mentioned that present level of bilateral trade is US $ 2.7 billion and it should be possible to meet the target of US $ 4 billion by 2007 set by the two Prime Ministers.

Import of vanaspati from Sri Lanka

2729. SHRI PR. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of vanaspati from Sri Lanka is duty free under the Free Trade Agreement;